

## Post-Primary Diocesan Adviser R.E. News Blog

### January 2021/ Eanáir 2021

Dear R.E. Teacher / Chaplain,

Welcome to the January issue of the R.E Blog! Happy new year to you all! I hope you all had a restful holiday and are refreshed and ready to begin a new term. What this new year and new term brings is hard to imagine, as we continue to live and work in very uncertain times. But, as Christians, we are a people of 'Hope' and while fear may have gripped so many of us, and with good reason, we remember the words of scripture that remind us: *"Fear is useless; what is needed is hope."* **(Mark 5:36)**. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **'He who promised is faithful'**. Pope Francis reminded us, as we begin this new year, 'to change the world for the better by being "bearers of gratitude" amid the hopelessness and despair that people felt in 2020. "The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of saying thank you, we transmit a bit of hope. Everything is united and everything is connected, and everyone needs to do his or her part wherever we are." May we continue, in our ministries, to be 'bearers of hope and gratitude' this coming year.

<https://www.onenews.ph/21-pope-francis-quotes-to-live-by-as-we-welcome-2021>

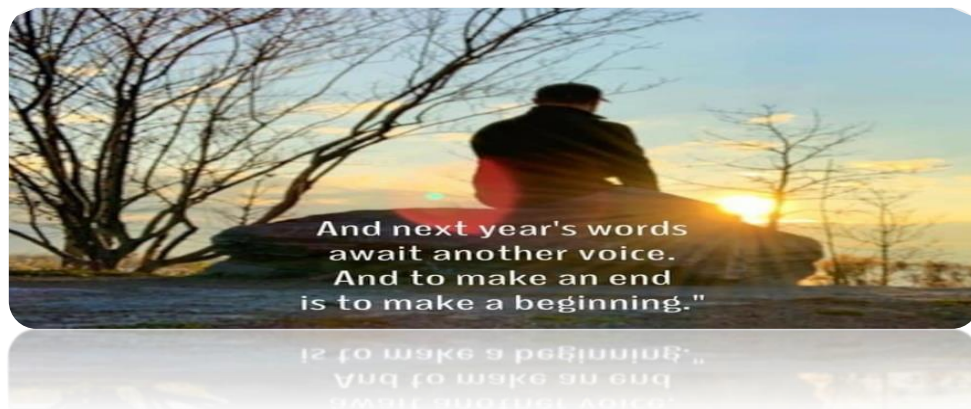
We are very aware of the added pressures schools are facing in these unprecedented times, and school visits which commenced in November, will continue in the following months in whatever way is possible. We will continue to endeavour to support and offer resources to all schools in every way we can. If you would like us to arrange a call for any reason, please contact us and we will be more than happy to organise this with you.

Finally, on behalf of the Education Secretariat, we would like to congratulate Archbishop-elect Dr. Dermot Farrell on his appointment to Dublin and look forward to his guidance and support in our work, and throughout our schools. May we also take this opportunity to thank Archbishop Diarmuid Martin for his continuous support and involvement in the work of our schools throughout his time as Archbishop in the diocese of Dublin. We wish him every blessing as he continues his ministry and retirement.

We will continue to add resources as Gaeilge with the assistance of Sr. Mairéad Ni Bhuachalla. A prayer service for Christian Unity week, as gaeilge, is attached at the end of this blog.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Lily Barry



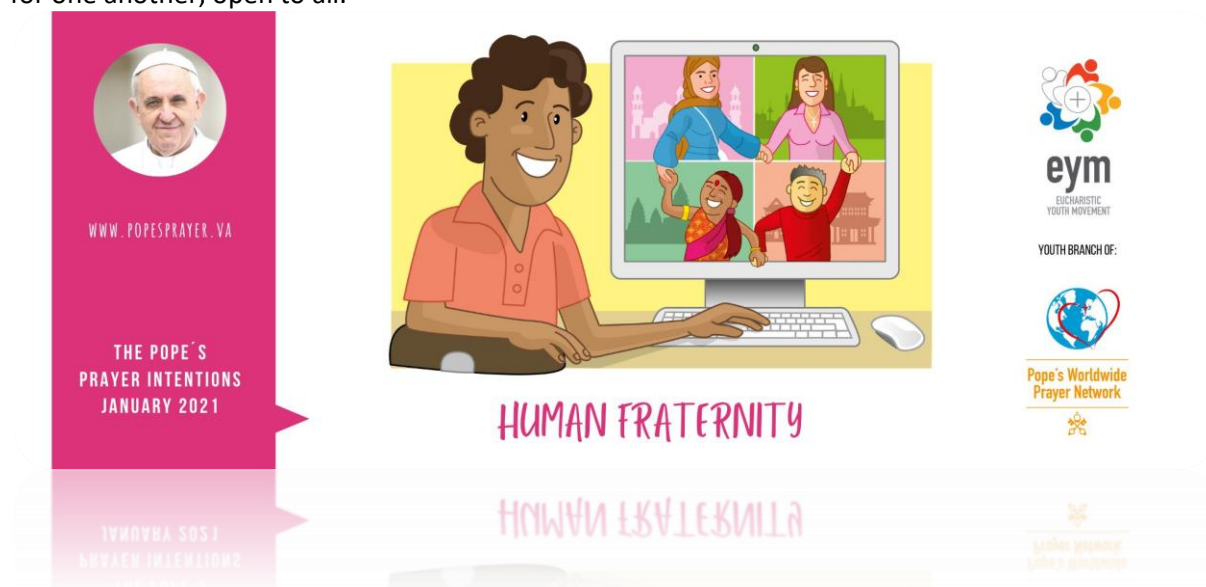
## The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2021 / Intinní Mhíosúla an Phápa

As you are aware, each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. For January 2021, the Pope's intention is for evangelization, **Human fraternity**:

**"Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth, which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."**

Go dtuga an Tiarna grásta dúinn maireachtáil i gcomhbhráithreachas iomlán lenár mbráithre agus lenár siúracha ó chreidimh eile, ag guí ar son a chéile, ag fáilte roimh chách.

Are you willing to cultivate dialogue and give yourself space to get to know others better? May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



<https://www.popesprayer.va/popes-prayer-intentions-2020-2/>

January 1<sup>st</sup> / Eanáir 1ú

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
Sollúntacht Muire, Máthair Dé

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, our Lady's greatest title. Pope Francis opened his first Angelus of the New Year by urging the faithful to join in **"placing ourselves under the maternal and loving gaze of Mary Most Holy"**. Pope Francis' prayer is a lovely simple way of bringing our students in the presence of Our Lady as we begin a new year:

*Holy Mother of God, to you we consecrate this New Year.*

*You, who know how to cherish things in your heart, care for us, bless our time, and teach us to find time for God and for others.*

*With joy and confidence, we acclaim you: Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God...*

*"May Our Lady, who brought God into the world of time, help us to be generous with our time"*  
Amen.

January 1<sup>st</sup>

## World Day of Peace / Lá Tiomnaithe do Shíocháin Domhanda

January 1<sup>st</sup> also marks **World Day of Peace**: the theme of this year's Word Day of Peace is **"The culture of care as a path to peace"**. In marking this day, Pope Francis reminded us that: "Each one of us, the men and women of our time, is called to make peace a reality every day and in every area of life, extending a hand to a brother or sister in need of a word of comfort, a gesture of tenderness, a helping hand of solidarity".

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-01/pope-at-angelus-entrust-yourselves-to-mary-for-a-united-world.html>

January 6<sup>th</sup>

## The Epiphany / An Eipeafáine



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. **"The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power."** With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfilment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-01-03>

January 10<sup>th</sup>

## Feast of the Baptism of our Lord / Féile Bhaisteadh an Tiarna

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. The Baptism of the Lord commemorates the Baptism of Jesus Christ by St. John the Baptist. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/baptism-of-the-lord-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>  
<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/ppbaptismresources/>

**January 17th**

**Celebrate World Religion Day / Ceiliúradh Domhanda ar Reiligiún**

Our World has hundreds of nations with thousands of cultures that stretch back into pre-history, and throughout all that time we have had countless religions rise to prominence. Whether you are Hindu, Jewish, Catholic, Shinto, Buddhist, or one of a million other faiths, World Religion Day is your chance to share your culture with others and take an opportunity to learn from others about theirs. The aim of World Religion Day, held on the third Sunday in January every year, is to promote inter-faith understanding and harmony. Through a variety of events held around the globe, followers of every religion are encouraged to acknowledge the similarities that different faiths have.



**How to celebrate Religion Day with your students:**

Religion Day is easy to observe, you need merely take the time and effort to study the faiths of the world around you with an open mind. Religion Day is about conversion, it is about learning about the religions that shape the world around you and becoming aware of how many there are that just do not appear in mainstream western culture.

Take some time to open the taboo subject of religion, share openly and learn about what those around you believe, and maybe do a little research into your favourite culture to learn a bit about its foundational religions. Whether you are learning about the Hindu faith with its thousands of Gods, or precisely how the thousands of denominations of Christianity grew out of the Judaic faith thousands of years ago, Religion Day is your opportunity to broaden your horizons.

Obviously, this includes taking this opportunity to speak to others about your religion but remember as you do so that Religion Day is not about conversion. Speak to another with an open heart and open mind, and share what your religion has to say, and then take the time to listen to them talk about theirs from a place of understanding and love. For ideas and resources see:

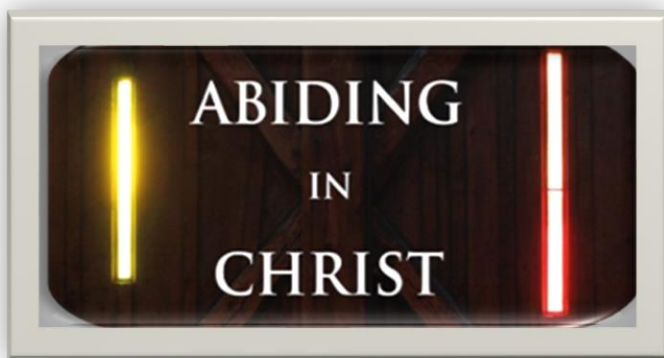
<https://www.twinkl.ie/event/world-religion-day-2021>

**January 18th-25th**

**Christian Unity Week /Aontacht Chríosta**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. The theme for 2021 is:

***“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” John 15: 1-17***  
***“An té a fhanann ionamsa, agus mise ann, tugann seiseann toradh mór uaidh.”***



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community’s vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries, and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning. For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Show your support for Christian Unity by posting unity messages and details of your events to our **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Twitter wall** – simply add the **#wpcuwall** hashtag to your Twitter post (note there is a delay before they appear). You can also find updates about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Twitter by following the **#wpcu2021** hashtag and resources are available at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

**January 21st**

**Martin Luther King Day / Lá in onóir Martin Luther King**

***“The Christian is called, with the grace of God invoked in prayer, to a sometimes-heroic commitment”.***

- Veritatis Splendor (The Splendor of Truth)—Pope John Paul II, 1993

Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of January. It celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American civil rights leader. The 1968 assassination of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. stunned the nation, but his work continues to inspire the pursuit of racial equality in America.

On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to hear what is now considered one of the most powerful speeches in history. A young Baptist minister named Martin Luther King Jr. addressed the crowd, assembled that day for the March on Washington, a protest rally he helped organise.

***“I have a dream,  
that one day this nation will rise up [and] live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”.***

Let us take this day with our students, to reflect on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., a man whose commitment to ridding the world of social sin resulted in discrimination, defamation of character, and ultimately his death. Dr. King is one of the most influential men of our times. His life and ministry continue to remind our nation and the world that the acts of injustice we confront daily require the faith-filled and faith-guided engagement of our heads, hearts, and hands.

**Let us pray:**

As we venture forth to be women and men of service, Lord go before us as our Guide. Renew us with the spirit of service and sacrificial love exemplified in the life of Dr. King. May we be vessels of hope and justice in a world inundated with countless forms of violence and injustice. May we never stand on the side-lines as we witness injustice done upon our sisters and brothers but walk with eyes open to the needs of our communities, with ears open to the needs of our world, and with hands open in helpful service to our neighbours. Then we will not only be blessed but be a blessing to our world. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

<https://junior.scholastic.com/pages/content-hubs/the-civil-rights-movement.html>  
<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/ppmartinlutherkingresources/>

24th–31st January

**Catholic Schools Week 2021**  
**Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha 2021**

The overarching theme for CSW 2021 will be:

***Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience. / Pobail Chreidimh agus Teacht Aniar***

This particular theme will be especially relevant given the pandemic experience that is affecting the entire country. The following will be the daily themes for CSW 2021:

- (1) Monday: Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith.
- (2) Tuesday: Catholic Schools: Communities of Learning
- (3) Wednesday: Catholic Schools: Communities of Love
- (4) Thursday: Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience
- (5) Friday: Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope

Resources for Catholic Schools Week will be uploaded on [www.catholicschools.ie](http://www.catholicschools.ie)

**January 24th**

**St. Francis de Sales / Naomh Proinsias de Sales**

Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, then a centre for the Calvinists. Francis set out to convert them, especially in the district of Chablais. By preaching and distributing the little pamphlets he wrote to explain true Catholic doctrine, he had remarkable success. At 35, he became bishop of Geneva. While administering his diocese he continued to preach, hear confessions, and catechize the children. His gentle character was a great asset in winning souls.



Besides his two well-known books, the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *A Treatise on the Love of God*, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. For his writings, he has been named patron of the Catholic Press. His writings, filled with his characteristic gentle spirit, are addressed to lay people. He wants to make them understand that they too are called to be saints. In spite of his busy and comparatively short life, he had time to collaborate with another saint, Jane Frances de Chantal, in the work of establishing the Sisters of the Visitation. These women were to practice the virtues exemplified in Mary's visit to Elizabeth: humility, piety, and mutual charity. They at first engaged to a limited degree in works of mercy for the poor and the sick. Today, while some communities conduct schools, others live a strictly contemplative life.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-francis-de-sales>

January 25th

### The Conversion of St. Paul / Iompú Naomh Pól

Saint Paul is one of the most important and influential of all the saints. Many of his writings are contained in the Canon of the Bible and have influenced the growth and development of the Church since the first century. Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus.

St. Paul was originally known as Saul, and he was a Roman citizen and a Pharisee. He even presided over the persecutions of the early Christians and was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen. However, Saul experienced a powerful vision that caused him to convert to Christianity while on the road to Damascus. He was duly baptized and took the name Paul and began travelling and preaching the Faith. He was martyred as an Apostle in Rome around 65 AD.

<https://www.catholic.org/search/?q=conversion+of+Paul>

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-01-25>

January 26<sup>th</sup>

### Saints Timothy and Titus / Naoimh Timóteas agus Titas

**St. Timothy**, born in Galatia in Asia Minor, was baptised, and later ordained to the priesthood by St. Paul. The young Galatian became Paul's missionary companion and his most beloved spiritual son. St. Paul showed his trust in this disciple by consecrating him bishop of the great city of Ephesus. St. Timothy was stoned to death thirty years after St. Paul's martyrdom for having denounced the worship of the goddess Diana.

**St. Titus**, a convert from paganism, was a fellow labourer of St. Paul on many apostolic missions. St. Paul later made him bishop of Crete, a difficult charge because of the character of the inhabitants and the spread of erroneous doctrines on that island. St. Paul's writings tell us that St. Titus rejoiced to discover what was good in others and drew the hearts of men by his wide and affectionate sympathy.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-01-26>

January 27th

### Holocaust Memorial Day / Lá Cuimhneacháin ar an Il-Ioscadh

*Be the light in the darkness*



The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2021 is ***be the light in the darkness***. It encourages everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after the genocide. This theme asks us to consider different kinds of 'darkness', for example, identity-based persecution, misinformation, denial of justice; and different ways of 'being the light', for example, resistance, acts of solidarity, rescue and illuminating mistruths.

Increasing levels of denial, division and misinformation in today's world mean we must remain vigilant against hatred and identity-based hostility. Rapid technological developments, a turbulent political climate, and world events beyond our control can leave us feeling helpless and insignificant. The utterly unprecedented times through which we are living currently are showing the very best of which humanity is capable but also - in some of the abuse and conspiracy theories being spread on social media - the much darker side of our world as well.

We can all stand in solidarity. We can choose to **be the light in the darkness** in a variety of ways and places – at home, in public, and online.

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/>

### **Holocaust Education Trust Ireland**

HETI aims to educate and inform people about the Holocaust. The National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration takes place in Dublin every year on the Sunday nearest to the 27 of January, in the Mansion House. It is organised under the auspices of Holocaust Education Trust Ireland in association with The Department of Justice and Equality and Dublin City Council. This year the event will take place online on the **24<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6 pm.**

The Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration cherishes the memory of all who perished in the Holocaust. It recalls six million Jewish men, women and children and millions of others who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis because of their ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliations, or their religious beliefs. The ceremony includes readings, survivors' recollections, candle-lighting, and music. It is attended by people from all walks of life and is a moving and dignified event.

**To attend:** There is no charge for attending HMD. To register fill in your details on:

<https://hetireland.org/programmes/holocaust-memorial-day-2021-commemoration/>



**Holocaust Education Trust Ireland**  
*Learning from the past - lessons for today*

**January 28th**

**Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas / Féile Naomh Tomás Acuin**



Today's feast day reflection is shared with us by Sr. Edel Murphy OP, who as a Dominican Sister, has a great devotion to St. Thomas!

***Thank you Sr. Edel for a beautiful introduction to this humble giant!***

### **St. Thomas Aquinas- a brief introduction to a humble giant!**

Saint Thomas Aquinas, whose feast day is celebrated each year the 28th of January was a Dominican, a member of the Order of Preachers. Born in Roccasecca, near Naples in the kingdom of Sicily, Italy, his father was known as Count Landulf of Aquino and his mother's name was Theodora. He had three brothers and two sisters. They lived in a family castle in Roccasecca. From the age of five Thomas was at school at the Benedictine Monastery of Cassino. There he stayed until he was in his teens.





Thomas was described as being large, heavy and quiet and was later given the nickname, The Dumb Ox, by classmates, (as he was so quiet and large). He was also a student of the great Dominican Saint, Albert the Great.

A new Order, the Dominicans, attracted Thomas' attention and he wanted to join them. His parents were not happy. The Order of Preachers was founded in 1216 by a Spaniard called Dominic de Guzman. Dominic saw the need to preach the truth of the message of Jesus Christ. To do this Dominic encouraged study so the members of the Order would be properly informed.

He also emphasised Prayer, seeing the necessity to reflect and contemplate to be aware of the mercy of God in our lives. To contemplate means to think thoughtfully about something for a length of time and to spend the time thinking about something in a meaningful way. This is to be done through prayer, conversation with others and study: "...it would seem that the young man Thomas Aquinas would walk into his father's castle one day and calmly announced that he had become one of the Begging Friars of the new order founded by Dominic the Spaniard".

Thomas was not afraid of new ideas, rather he engaged with them through study, listening, talking with others and by praying. Thomas was concerned with understanding how people would know what was right and what was wrong. While study was important to Thomas, praying was even more so. To sit and listen to God and to delight in God in our lives. He understood the need to look and listen paying attention to how God is a part of our lives. If we can do this perhaps, we can be joyful and compassionate as Thomas was and as he was remembered by those who lived with him. He had a strong desire to know God.

(A prayer of St Thomas Aquinas)

**Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
conduct pleasing to you,  
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,  
and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.**

While Thomas is very much remembered for his brilliant mind, his written work, as being somewhat of a genius and highly regarded in the academic world his life in prayer and study of scripture were central to him. He was very much a man of prayer. One of his many quotes was

**'Humility is what makes a person capable of God'** and he openly declared that 'prayer and the help of God had been of far greater service to him in the search for truth than his natural intelligence and habit of study'.

Thomas always attempted to look at everything from the inside and could be regarded in the most exact sense of the term, Humanist, because he insisted on the immense importance of the human being in the theological scheme of things...for in his very humanism he affirmed the doctrine of Incarnation, the divinity of Christ.

He died on March 7th, 1274. His pursuit of truth and desire to know God are what hold him in high regard. He was declared Patron of all Universities and Catholic Schools.

## References

G.K Chesterton, Saint Thomas Aquinas. The Dumb Ox  
Paul Murray, Aquinas at Prayer

**January 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Feast Day of St. Aidan of Ferns**

**Naomh Maodhóg (Aodhán) Priomhéarlaimh Deoise Fhearna**

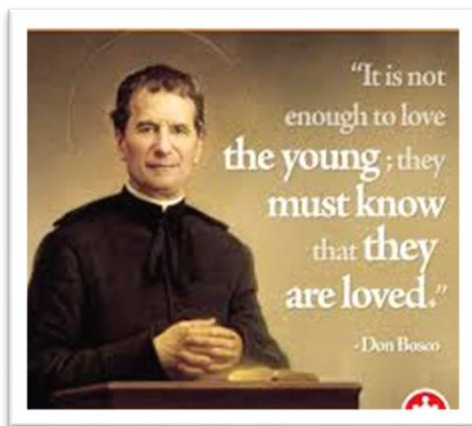
Aidan was born in Inis Breachmhaigh, now known as Port, Inch or Mogue's Island, in Templeport Lake, near Bawnboy in County Cavan, around 550. Both his father Setna and his mother Eithne were of noble origin. There was no boat to take the infant to the mainland to be baptised, so he is said to have been miraculously floated across the lake on a slab of stone to where Saint Kilian was waiting to baptise him. The parish church of Templeport parish (St. Mogue's Church in Bawnboy) in the diocese of Kilmore is called after him and the church's holy water font is said to be made from part of that stone.

The written "vitae" of Saint Aidan are composed mostly of miracles attributed to him. He is attributed with astonishing feats of austerity, such as fasting on barley bread and water for seven years, as well as reciting 500 Psalms daily. This saint illustrates the close co-operation that existed between the Celtic churches in Ireland and Wales. He was the greatly loved disciple of Saint David for many years and during that time he was usually known by his baptismal name of Aedan but later in Ireland, where he founded the famous abbey at Ferns in County Wexford, he was given the prefix of endearment making his name Maedoc that was usually pronounced Mogue. He continued on with his missionaries and founded thirty churches and numerous monasteries. Many are still in use today. He died of natural causes on January 31 (his patronal feast day) c 632 and is buried under the cathedral in Ferns.

<https://catholicsaintmedals.com/saints/st-aedan-of-ferns/>

**January 31st**

**Feast Day of St. Don Bosco / Féile Naomh Eoin Bosco**



Born in Castlenuovo d'Asti on August 16, 1815, John was educated in the faith and in living according to the Gospel message by his mother. He was just nine years old when he had a dream, which called him to dedicate himself to the education of young people. While still a boy, he began to entertain his peers with games alternated with work, prayer, and religious education.

On becoming a priest (1841), he chose as his life's programme: "Da mihi animas cetera tolle" ("Give me souls, take all the rest" Gen. 14: 21). He began his apostolate among poor young people with the founding of the Oratory, which he placed under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales.

He led young people to meet Christ by means of his educational style and pastoral practice, based on reason, religion, and loving kindness (the Preventive System). He led young people to reflect, to meet Christ and their brothers and sisters, to the study of the faith and to apostolic, civil, and professional commitment. St. Dominic Savio stands out among the most outstanding fruits of his work.

The source of his indefatigable activity and of the effectiveness of his work was his "constant union with God" and his unlimited confidence in Mary Our Help who he considered to be the inspiration and support of his whole work. He left, as an inheritance for his Salesian sons and daughters, a form of religious life that was simple but founded on solid Christian virtue and on contemplation in action, which may be summed up in the words "work and temperance."

<https://salesianmissions.org/about-us/who-we-are/about-st-john-bosco/>

### Naomh Eoin Bosco (1815-1888)

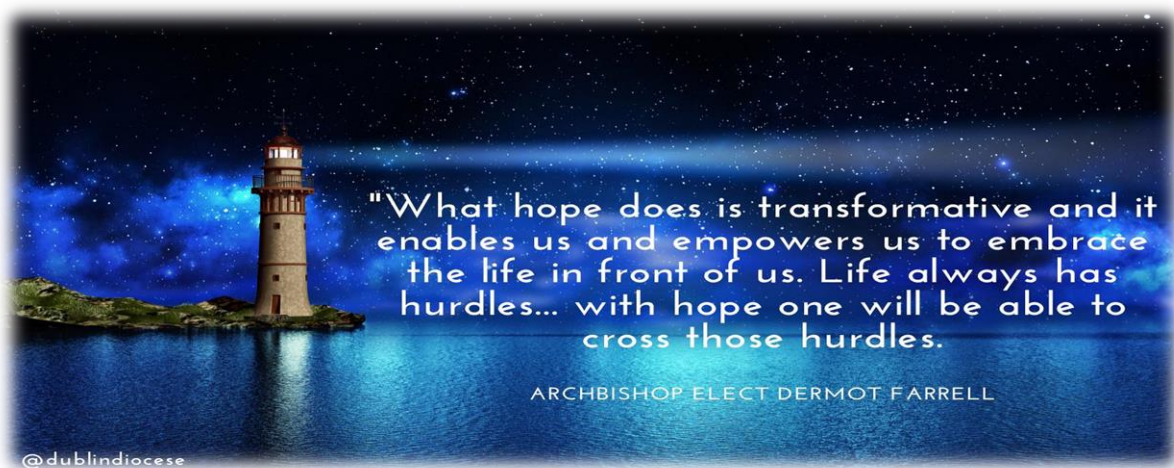
Rugadh Naomh Eoin Bosco ar 16 Lúnasa 1815 d'Aisti Piedmont san Iodáil. Bhí drochbhail ar eacnamaíocht na hIodáile tar éis Chogaí Napoléon. Caitlicigh an-tugtha do Dhia ab ea a theaghlach. Fuair a athair bás nuair a bhí Eoin dhá bhliain d'aois agus bhí ar a mháthair soláthair dá triúr mac. Bhí tionchar mór aici ar mhúnlú pearsan Eoin. Sa bhliain 1825 nuair a bhí sé naoi mbliana d'aois bhí a chéad aisling, de mhórán díobh aige. Cuireadh in iúl dó, go mbeadh tionchar mór aige ar shaol buachaillí bochta a bhíodh ag imirt cluichí agus ag mallachtach le linn dóibh bheith ag súgradh. Thosaigh sé ag caint leo agus ag léiriú dóibh nach raibh an ceart acu. De bharr na bochtaineachta, ní bhfuair sé aon scolaíocht agus chaith sé tús a shaol mar aoire.

Fuair sé a bhun oideachas ó shagart paróiste a chuaigh i bhfeidhm go mór air agus a spreag é chun bheith ina shagart, cé ag an am ba iad daoine mór le rá a théadh leis an ghairm sagartóireachta. Ba fheirmeoirí muintir Bhosco. D'fhág sé a bhaile féin nuair a bhí sé dhá bhliain déag d'aois agus fuair sé breis oideachais ó shagart aosta, Joseph Cafasso a thug faoi deara na buanna ar leith a bhí ag Eoin. Chuaigh sé go dtí cliarscoil agus tar éis sé bliana ornaíodh ina shagart é. Ba mhian a chroí é, cabhrú leis an aos óg agus go mór mór le páistí na mbocht. Theastaigh uaidh leas buan a dhéanamh dóibh. Bhunaigh sé Cuallacht na Sailéisineach sa bhliain 1852 chun freastal ar na hoibre sin agus Cuallacht Mhná Rialta sa bhliain 1852 ar a dtugtar Siúracha na Maighdine, Cabhair na gCríostaithe. Is iomaí cineál oibre ar son na hEaglaise a raibh lámh aige ann. Bhí an- mhuinín aige as Dia agus an Mhaighdean Mhuire. Chloígh sé gach deacracht i gcúrsaí a chuid oibre le cúnamh Dé. Fuair se bás sa bhliain 1888. Naomhainmnigh an Pápa Pius XI é sa bhliain 1934. Ceiliúrtar a lá fhéile ar 31 Eanáir gach bliain.

***A Dhia, a roghnaigh Naomh Eoin Bosco le bheith mar athair agus oide ag an aos óg agus a chuir cuallachtaí nua ar bun san Eaglais, gríosáigh le lasracha na carthanachta sinne, le do thoil a dhéanamh ar an saol seo. Áiméan.***

Let us begin our January on a happy note in the **hope** that the rest of the months will be affected with happiness too! Remember, happiness can be affective!

I pray that God will give us all the grace to find happiness and fulfilment in all our undertakings this month and the rest of the year. May the light of His love continue to abide with us so that all we do will be to the greater glory of His name. Wishing you a happy and blessed new year.



## Other Dates/Information (Dataí Eile/Eolas):

### Archdiocese of Dublin/Ard-Dheoise Bhaile Átha Cliath

See the Archdiocese of Dublin website for information on events, which take place throughout the diocese. <http://www.dublindiocese.ie/> or follow the Diocese on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/DublinDiocese/photos/a.336758473023201/2786129244752766/?type=3>

### Nutrition for the Soul / Cothú don Anam

Excellent resources available from Pat Murphy, including reflections, posters, and badges for your students. See <https://patsnutritionforthesoul.blogspot.com/>

### Combined Parishes of Clondalkin / Frank Brown

Frank Brown, Parish Pastoral Worker from the Combined Catholic Parishes of Clondalkin has excellent resources for each month. See <https://www.facebook.com/TheCCPCDublin/> and [www.clondalkinparish.com](http://www.clondalkinparish.com) @TheCCPCDublin 086 1018173

### Resources as Gaeilge

If you require any resources in Irish, please contact me and I will access them with the help of Sr. Mairéad Ní Bhuachalla.

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I leave you with a beautiful reflection by Fernando Pessoa: ***"Palco de vida" (Stages of life), Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935)***

*"You can have flaws, be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you.*

*Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, and relationships without disappointments.*

*To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity.*

*Being happy is not an achievement for those who can travel within themselves.*

*To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author.*

*It is to cross deserts; it is to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul.*

*It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life.*

*Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It is to be able to talk about you.*

*It is having the courage to hear a 'no'.*

*It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified.*

*It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us.*

*To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful, and simple.*

*It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes".*

*It is to have the courage to say, "I am sorry".*

*It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you".*

*It is to have the ability to say, "I love you".*

*May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness... that in spring may it be a lover of joy, in winter a lover of wisdom. And when you make a mistake, start over again. For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculpture serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence.*

***Never give up... never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness.***

***For life is an incredible show.***

## **Searmanas ar son Aontacht na gCríostaithe**

**Bíobla, coinneal mhór, siombailí na haontachta.**

**Lastar coinneal mhór, cuirtear an Bíobla ar seastán agus cuirtear siombailí éagsúla na haontachta timpeall orthu.**

Cinnire: Gach bliain i mí Eanáir, leagann na heaglaisí Críostaí amach seachtain ar leith, 18ú – 25ú, chun guí ar son na haontachta. Is toil le Críost aontacht na gCríostaithe mar dúirt sé an phaidir seo an oíche roimh a bhás:

**“Ionas go mba aon iad go léir, faoi mar atá tusa, a Athair, ionamsa agus mise ionatsa; go mbeidís seo ina n-aon ionainn i dtreo go gcreidfídh an saol gur chuir tú uait mé.” (Eoin 17: 21)**

Tharla dhá mhór-scoilt in Eaglais Chríost:

- Sa bhliain 1054 scar Eaglais an Oirthir i gConstantinople ón Eaglais sa Róimh agus thug siad Ceartchreidmhaigh orthu féin.
- Tharla scoilt san Eoraip sa séú aois déag agus is as sin a d’fhás na hEaglaisí Protastúnacha, mar atá an Eaglais Liútarach, an Eaglais Chailvéineach agus an Eaglais Anglacánach.

Le céad bliain anuas tá na heaglaisí ag iarraidh na scoilteanna a leigheas. Tugtar Éacúiméineachas ar an iarracht sin.

### **Paidreacha**

1. Iarraimis ar Dhia cabhrú linn aontacht a chothú in ionad easaontais inár saol laethúil féin.

A Thiarna, éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.

2. Cabhraigh linn, a Dhia, meas ar dhaoine eile a chothú, agus comhoibriú leo inár saol féin.

A Thiarna, éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.

3. A Dhia, cabhraigh linn tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar chreidimh agus ar thraidisiúin eile.

A Thiarna, éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.

4. A Dhia, tabhair misneach, foighne, dóchas agus grá dóibh siúd atá a obair ar son aontacht na gCríostaithe.

A Thiarna, éist linn. A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.

Cinnire: Guímis le chéile an phaidir a mhúin Íosa Críost dúinn

Ár nAthair atá ar Neamh...

A Dhia, féach anuas go cineálta orainne, Críostaithe, a leanann do mhac, Íosa Críost. Baisteadh sinn uile i gCríost. Aontaigh sinn agus coinnigh le chéile sinn le nasc an ghrá. Iarraimid é seo trí Chríost ár dTiarna. Áiméan.

